MI Child Support Formula - ADM 2003-22-10: Proposed Changes in Child Support Formula Manual (SharedEconomic - Threshold and Cubing)

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The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers makes a valid point, "Under the new formula, mothers will be reluctant to permit fathers to have children for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night when they realize how much the additional night will affect their child support". Therefore, I recommend that the new Child Support Formula Manual require adoption of the "Michigan Parenting Time Guideline", published by the State Court Administrative Office. The specific visitation frequency in this publication should be presumed as the minimum standard for children. In addition to facilitating the adoption of the New Child Support Guidelines, integrating the Parenting Time Guideline will reduce many of the current visitation litigation issues.

A number of other respondents expressed concern that non custodial parents did not provide the basic care items (bed, clothing, etc). I would like to point out that this works both ways. There are instance where the custodial parent does not make all of the necessary expenditures and expects the non custodial parent to accommodate these needs. I dare say the needs and expectations will grow in proportion to the time the child spends with the non custodial parent, as it should. Providing relief via SER justifies this expectation. It promotes the ability of the non custodial parent to provide for these needs and fosters a closer relationship for the children. It provides a back up for instances where the children are not obtaining the necessities from the custodial parent.

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